

## REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 53-59, and for indicating that claims 22-24 and 52 contain subject matter that would be allowable if Applicant amends them into independent form.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for discussing this application with his U.S. counsel, including a telephone conversation on August 10, 2004, in which the claims in the application was discussed. During the August 10, 2004 conversation, a clarification to independent claim 17 was discussed. The Examiner indicated he and his supervisor had reviewed the application and that independent claim 17 would be allowable with the inclusion of the discussed clarification. Accordingly, as discussed below, Applicant herewith clarifies claim 17 to include the agreed to clause. Thus, Applicant submits that all the pending claims are allowable, and respectfully requests such an indication by the Examiner.

Claims 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections, submitting that the applied reference fails to disclose or suggest every feature of the present invention, as defined in claim 17. In particular, Applicant submits that the applied art fails to disclose (or suggest) that the transmission of the first predetermined signal by the first communication system is halted for a predetermined time period when the selected signal is detected by the first communication system, with a second predetermined signal that indicates a half duplex operating mode being transmitted by the

first communication system upon an expiration of the predetermined time period, and the second communication system stopping the transmission of the selected signal upon detection of the second predetermined signal. In this regard, it is noted that the halting of the selected signal and the second predetermined signal are associated with a change in system state.

While Applicant disagrees with the basis for the rejection of claim 17, Applicant herewith clarifies claim 17 to more clearly indicate that the halting of the selected signal and the second predetermined signal are associated with a change in system state, in order to advance the prosecution of the application. However, such amendment should not be taken as an acquiescence of the appropriateness of the rejection. As noted above, it was agreed between the parties that clarifying this feature in the claim places the application in condition for allowance.

In view of the revision to claim 17, Applicant submits that the ground for the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claims 17 and 20 no longer exist. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this ground of rejection, to indicate the allowability of the pending claims, and to pass the application to issue.

Further, Applicant submits that the ground for the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection is moot in view of the amendment to claim 17, and thus, it is no longer necessary to respond to this rejection.

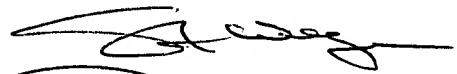
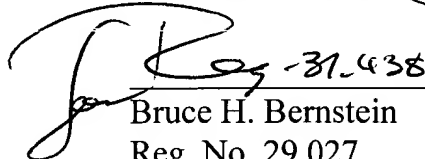
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that none of the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as now defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen PALM

  
  
Bruce H. Bernstein  
Reg. No. 29,027

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.  
1950 Roland Clarke Place  
Reston, VA 20191  
(703) 716-1191